



Community Connection

Village of Canal Winchester, Fall 2009

Canal Winchester Will Soon Reach City Status

Since its establishment in 1811, the Village of Canal Winchester has always seen change occur with time. Many residents have memories of the village before some businesses moved in, others before Gender Road became as developed as it is today and some remember the village with a smaller population. After the official U.S. census in 2010, the Village of Canal Winchester is expected to make its next change, becoming the City of Canal Winchester.

In order for a village to become a city, the population must reach over five thousand residents. While Canal Winchester reached the five thousand population mark a few years ago, it won't be given official city-status until after the next U.S. census in 2010.

The State of Ohio has set some requirements for a village's transition into a city that Canal Winchester will have to follow. One of those requirements is having a Civil Service Commission in place.

"Once a Civil Service Commission is established, committee members will then set rules and guidelines on how employment issues such as hiring and promotions will be handled," said Finance Director Nanisa Osborn.

Other changes include either having a city health department or contracting out for one, being responsible for the cost of upkeep for state routes and U.S. highways within the city limits and

giving city employees the option to participate in a collective bargaining unit.

Even with these changes, most things will remain the same. The way the government operates will not be affected by the status change. In Ohio, municipalities can either become one of two kinds of cities, a statutory city without a charter or a charter city. Although the official status change won't occur until after the census, the village prepared and planned on the eventual change to a city with the passing of a charter in 1996. Canal Winchester residents voted to approve Charter Community status, which will allow the government to operate (aside from the state mandated changes) the same way as it does today.

With a change to a city just around the corner, you may be wondering what affect the new status and the previously mentioned changes will have on the community feel of the village. According to Osborn, Canal Winchester will keep the small town appeal. "The biggest change that most residence will notice will be in the way Canal Winchester is referred to," said Osborn. While the official title of Canal Winchester may be changing, and with it, a few state mandated requirements, the City of Canal Winchester will still feel much like the Village of Canal Winchester does today.



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Hello... From the Mayor

As summer winds down, the village's 2009 street projects are coming to a close. So far this year, High Street has been repaved and some bricks on the crosswalks replaced or reset. Thrush Drive was repaved, and portions of the pavement in Ashbrook Village, Winchester Village and The Villages of Westchester were repaired and reconditioned as part of our street maintenance program.

The public parking lot behind Shade on the Canal was repaved and restriped, which improved flow and added 11 parking spaces to this lot. Two parking spots were also added on High Street, for a total of 13 additional parking spaces in the downtown area.

One project still on the agenda for 2009 is the repaving of Waterloo Street, from Washington Street east to the Fairfield County line. This project is being handled by Franklin County through stimulus dollars awarded to Canal Winchester, and is expected to be complete this fall.

We continue to work with SWACO and Waste Management to try to minimize the negative impact SWACO's proposed modifications to its waivers authorizing out-of-district solid waste

disposal would have on Waste Management. SWACO's proposed changes would require Waste Management and other private haulers to dispose of more solid waste in Franklin County's landfill, which would cost Waste Management more than using their current company-owned landfill. As a result, the curbside pickup rate Waste Management charges residents could increase to cover their costs.

If the amount of waste SWACO requires to be disposed of in Franklin County becomes too significant, Waste Management could close its operation in Canal Winchester. This would have a significant impact on the community, including:

- A loss of over 270 jobs, resulting in a decrease in the amount of income tax collected (one of the biggest revenue generators for the village)
- An increase in curbside pickup rates, currently calculated at a reduced rate for Canal Winchester residents through a host community agreement
- A decrease in revenue for the village, which currently receives 80 cents for every ton of solid waste that Waste Management hauls

SWACO plans to make a decision on the amount of waste it will require private haulers to dispose of in Franklin County by November 1. In the meantime, we will continue to work diligently to try to persuade SWACO's policy makers to reconsider the modifications that are being proposed for their waivers. It's my hope that we'll be able to come to a resolution with minimal impact on Waste Management, the Village of Canal Winchester and its residents.

Sincerely,



Michael Ebert
Mayor



Leaf Pickup October 5 - December 4

Leaf pickup, a free service for village residents, will begin October 5 and will run through December 4. Residents should avoid covering storm drains along streets with leaves to allow for proper drainage.

Only leaves raked to the curb will be removed.

Sticks, grass trimmings and other yard waste will not be collected due

to the damage caused by these items to village equipment. Regular yard waste will continue to be picked up by Waste Management during scheduled trash collection times.



2009 Canal Winchester Labor Day Festival

canal winchester labor day festival



September 5-7, 2009

The 2009 Labor Day Festival is right around the corner! Taking place September 5 – 7, this year's festival will offer many of the attractions last year's festival offered, such as the return of the Kingy's Beer Garden, as well as some new attractions.

Each day of the festival will provide fun activities for the entire family. Opening day will feature the Peggy Wood Scholarship Pageant, taking place on the main stage at 11 a.m. for the Tiny and Little Miss age groups and at 3 p.m. for the Junior and Miss age groups. Several performers will also entertain festival attendees throughout the day on both the main and Stradley Place stages.

On Sunday, Fitness Firm will host its annual 5k run at 8 a.m., benefiting Relay for Life Canal Winchester. Car enthusiasts will enjoy the car show that will begin at noon on West Waterloo Street, with awards

presented at 4 p.m. Kicking off at 2:30 p.m. with a hula hoop contest, the family stage at Stradley Place will feature exciting children's activities during the afternoon while the main stage will feature popular bands British Invasion and After Midnight that evening.

The festival will conclude on Monday, but not without one of the most important parts of the festival, the parade. Beginning at 1 p.m., the parade will feature various floats sure to entertain all in attendance. Also on Monday, the Canal

Winchester Garden Club will be set up at the community center, while the Cornerstone Gospel Group and the Gas Pump Jockeys will perform on the main stage.

Those watching the popular parade may recognize a familiar face as this year's Grand Marshall. Retired Division of Streets Manager, Ed Snyder, was chosen as Grand Marshal for his assistance with the festival for several years through his role with the village. He was also selected for being a model of cooperation, community spirit and community service through his involvement with the village and youth recreation.

The hours of the festival are from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday, September 5, from noon to 11 p.m. on Sunday, September 6 and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, September 7. For a complete schedule of activities and events, please log on to the official Web site for the Labor Day Festival at www.cwlaborday.org



Did You Know?

The average family turns on water taps in their house 70 – 100 times a day

The Village of Canal Winchester spent more than \$25,000 in 2008 repairing damage done by inappropriate materials that were flushed down residents' toilets.

The Groveport and Newark rivers are underground rivers buried by glacial activity approximately 11,000 years ago. These rivers are tributaries to the Teays River, which supplies Canal Winchester with virtually all of its drinking water.

Property owners are responsible for keeping sidewalks in front of their properties clear of snow, including making sure that any snow plowed from their driveway or parking lot does not block the sidewalk.

Law enforcement services for the village are provided by the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office. Non-emergency calls may be directed to the Canal Winchester sub-station at 614-837-7913. For an emergency, call 911.

The Village of Canal Winchester has updated 99.2 percent of all water meters in town through its new VXU meter system.

Dates to Remember

Sept. 5-7	Labor Day Festival
Sept. 7	Village Offices Closed
Oct. 5- Dec. 4	Leaf Pickup
Oct. 29	Beggar's Night
Nov. 11	Village Offices Closed
Nov. 26-27	Village Offices Closed
Dec. 4-5	Christmas in the Village
Dec. 12	Breakfast with Santa
Dec. 25	Village Offices Closed

Beggar's Night to be Held on a Thursday This Year



This year's Beggar's Night will be held Thursday, October 29, from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. If you wish to have trick-or-treaters, turn on a porch light to let them know they are welcome. Children should only visit houses with an outside light on. Do not let children eat candy until they return home. All candy should be inspected before eating and anything that is open or that looks suspicious should be thrown out.

All children should be accompanied by an adult while trick-or-treating. Remind children to walk instead of run and to look both ways before crossing the street. Have children wear reflective costumes or light sticks to make them more visible to motorists. If you will be driving during or shortly before or after trick-or-treat hours, make sure to watch for children crossing the street.

Host Your Next Gathering at the Community Center



payers. Discounted rates are available for approved non-profits.

The community center is available for rent daily between 8 a.m. and 11 p.m. by persons 21 years and older. Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please call the center at (614) 837-8276 to schedule a tour of the building or to make a reservation.

Looking for a place to hold your next event? The Frances Steube Community Center is available to rent for various occasions. Located at 22 S. Trine Street, the community center offers a large multipurpose room and commercial kitchen for public use.

The hourly rate for the multipurpose room is \$40 per hour for residents and tax payers to the village and \$60 for non-residents/taxpayers. The kitchen may be rented with the multipurpose room for an additional \$15 per hour for residents/tax payers and \$20 per hour for non-residents/tax

For more information or complete guidelines for renting the center, visit <http://www.canalwinchesterohio.gov/departments/ca/cc/rental.aspx>.



Are You Flushing Money Down the Drain?

Each year the village spends thousands of dollars to unplug wastewater lines and make repairs to pumps that were damaged because improper materials were flushed down residents' drains. These costs must then be passed on to home owners via increased sewer rates.

Additionally, residents are responsible for any problems that flushing inappropriate items causes to their properties. Because it's considered an act of vandalism, the village does not reimburse property owners for losses or lend assistance in cleanup. You could also be held liable for damage to a neighbor's property if their basement or another area of their home was flooded with sewage as a result of your negligence.

There are many items that cause damage to a sewer system. "Hair, medicine, band-aids, condoms, pesticides and poisons should never be flushed," said Steve Smith, Manager of Water Reclamation.

According to Smith, other items that should be thrown in the trash and never flushed include:

- Grease from cooking since it adheres to pipes and is the

number one cause of sewage back up in residential basements.

- Rags such as diapers, underwear and fabric cleaning cloths, as they clog lines and pumps and are responsible for costly damage every year.
- Disposable tissues, including paper towels, facial tissues, baby wipes, "flushable" wipes and disinfecting cleaning wipes. Despite what some manufacturers claim, these products are not easily biodegradable and cause a lot of damage.
- Feminine hygiene products including tampons, applicators, pads, and adhesive backings for pads, all of which are not biodegradable.
- Anything flammable such as paint thinner, nail polish remover and gasoline, which are dangerous to flush.

Not only can the above materials cause disruption of sewer flow and directly affect your pocketbook, they also pollute our local streams and waterways. Please help us keep your basements dry, your sewer rates low and the local environment safe. Never flush anything other than human waste and toilet paper!

Memorial Park Benches



Through the village's memorial park bench program, you can honor the memory of someone who has left a lasting impression on your life. Similar to the benches found in the downtown area in the past, the new memorial park benches are stronger and better built, using heavier materials like recycled plastic slats.

Memorial park benches like the one above are now available for purchase for \$795, which includes the cost of the bench, an engraved memorial plaque and installation. Anyone interested in purchasing a memorial park bench to be placed in historic downtown Canal Winchester should contact Carrie Hoover at (614) 834-9727 or choover@canalwinchesterohio.gov.

New Bike Path Opens

After several years in the works, the village now boasts 4.5 miles of contiguous bike path for public use. Canal Winchester's new bike path officially opened on Friday, August 21, following brief remarks and a ceremonial ribbon-cutting.

The new path is located on Groveport Road and connects the Gender Road and Winchester

Boulevard bike paths. Some of the features of the path include striping, curb ramps, signage, embankments and fencing.

Following the ribbon-cutting event, Mayor Ebert, members of council, residents and guests took a celebratory ride along the new path.



Cleanup Day a Success!

Hard work, dedication and community pride resulted in a successful community cleanup day on May 16. In total, 278 tires were pulled from Walnut Creek during the tire sweep! Volunteers supplied labor and much needed materials, such as canoes, john boats and pickup trucks to help remove and transport the tires to be shredded.

While pulling 278 tires from the watershed was a great start, Canal Winchester's Urban Forester Dick Miller thinks there are still more tires out there. "The water was quite turbid so not all the tires were removed," said Miller. "There is always more work to be done, but this provided a strong base to build on."

The village received a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for engaging in the

cleanup event, which helped cover the cost of shredding the tires pulled from Walnut Creek. The village plans to hold another community cleanup day in the future, although no date has been set at this time.



Above, Chris Filio searches for tires as Brenton Austin hauls tires found along the way down the creek. Other volunteers included Rick Brown, Jackie Brown, Seth Brown, Corey Berta, Bryce Palsgrove, Bill Sims, Dick Miller, Sal Malturer, Paul Owens, Gary Bumpus, Max Leurhs, Ken Malturer, and Jim Cherwinski.

Christmas in the Village

Canal Winchester's annual storybook Christmas celebration will be held in the village's historic downtown on Friday, December 4 and Saturday, December 5. A Santa parade will begin at 5:15 p.m. each night and activities will commence at 6 p.m.

Activities will take place on the sidewalks and streets of downtown as

well as inside several business establishments around the village's municipal office building at 36 S. High Street. A complete list of activities and the parade routes can be found on the village's Web site at www.canalwinchesterohio.gov.

Anyone who would like more information about Christmas in the

Breakfast With Santa



The annual Breakfast with Santa event will take place on Saturday, December 12 at 9 a.m. at the Frances Steube Community Center. The breakfast will include all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage and orange juice as well as milk for children and coffee for adults. Children will also receive a gift bag and a visit with Santa.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and children and will be available for purchase in November. Children under one year are free. More details on dates, times, and locations to purchase tickets will be available in late October.

Village or details on how to enter the third annual gingerbread house contest should contact Carrie Hoover at 614-834-9727 or choover@canalwinchesterohio.gov.

If you would like to participate in the Business Expo, please contact the Main Street Canal Winchester organization at (614) 270-5053.



Restoration of the Interurban Building

It has been almost 80 years since the last Interurban passenger run was made through the depot/station located behind the southwest corner of High and Waterloo streets. The passengers and third-rail tracks are long gone but the building still stands as a reminder of a different time in the village's history.

From the time regular service began in 1905 through its last trip in 1930, Canal Winchester's commercial and personal activities revolved around the Scioto Valley Traction Company's Interurban Station and connected them with nearby towns in a way that has never happened again. Improved roads, more/better automobiles, and likely fallout from the Stock Market crash of 1929 combined to end the Interurban's 25-year reign in the village.

Initially constructed in 1905, the building is typical of a turn of the 20th century transportation building. Its history involved many changes and alterations ... almost from the start. Sometime in the first 10 or so years of operation, the building was expanded to the west by approximately 30 feet to accommodate a booming freight service. While still able to match the distinctive iron spot exterior brick for the expansion, those in charge decided to remove the clay tile roofing material

used in 1905 and replace it with slate.

After 1930 the building was used as headquarters for Scioto Valley Traction Company's successor, Ohio Midland Power Company, which eventually merged with South Central Power Company. During that time, the building experienced a series of alterations including bricked in openings, added openings, lowered floor (warehouse section), exterior stucco and removal of the freight dock. Perhaps the most dramatic change, an office expansion in the 1950s, resulted in the east tip of the Interurban being imbedded in the new construction. In spite of this indignity, the Interurban station escaped the fate of demolition that many of the village's historic buildings suffered in the name of prosperity.

When South Central relocated to a new facility in 2002, the village purchased the Interurban station to protect it from further harm and to incorporate it into a future vision. That vision is rapidly becoming a reality as the village launches the first phase of the building's rebound. Because of the degree of changes made over the years, a formal restoration approach was not feasible. The decision was made to pursue a "historic rehabilitation," blending restored original features, recreated

period details, and practical (or code required) improvements to bring the building back to vibrant use once again.

Phase 1 plans included reroofing the structure with clay tile in a color and style that closely matches the original (from a fragment discovered on site), reinforcing/tuck pointing the brick walls, cleaning the exterior brick, repairing/repainting the eaves and soffits, fixing the doors/windows, recreating the freight dock/bay door, and creating faux window shutters to cover openings that were bricked in using mismatched brick. Subsequent phases will address the landscaping and rehabilitation of the interior.

Construction on the Interurban building is expected to run throughout 2009. A possible future use for the building is a combination office space/conference room with Interurban memorabilia on the walls. The potential conference room could be available for public use.

With these changes, the Interurban station will once again become a part of the community it served for so long.

**This article was taken from the piece written by Bruce Jarvis for the Landmarks Commission's newsletter.*





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Victor Paini (Vice President),
Marilyn Rush-Ekelberry, Leah TurnerCouncil

Guide to Village Employees

614-837-7493
www.canalwinchesterohio.gov

Village Administration
36 S. High Street

Community Center
22 S. Trine Street

Accounting Clerk614-834-5106

Building Dept. Administrative Assistant614-837-7501

Building Official614-834-5102

Clerk of Court614-837-7691

Community Affairs Director614-834-9727

Development Director614-837-1894

Finance Director614-837-6937

Mayor614-837-7493

Planning & Zoning Administrator614-837-6742

Receptionist614-837-7493

Utility Clerk614-837-7716

Zoning Officer614-834-5101

Community Center 614-837-8276

Construction Services
400 Ashbrook Road

Construction Services 614-834-5100, ext. 101

Department of Public Works
400 Ashbrook Road

Director of Public Works614-834-5100, ext. 109

Division of Streets614-834-5100, ext. 105

Division of Urban Forestry614-834-5100, ext. 110

Division of Water Reclamation614-834-5100, ext. 103

Division of Water Treatment614-837-5623